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adjacent to support member 44, and together facilitate preventing shelf 38 from extending beyond a fully a fully extended position.

IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Once amended) A system for limiting outward movement of a slide-out shelf, said structure comprising:

a plurality of side supports configured to support the shelf, each said side support comprises a ledge comprising a clearance portion; and

a plurality of support members configured to rigidly connect said side supports and contact at least a portion of the shelf thereby blocking forward movement of the shelf.

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3. (Once amended) A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said portion of the shelf comprises at least one of a forward stop tab and a rear tab, whereby said tabs are at least one of integral and unitary.

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7. (Once amended) A system in accordance with Claim 3 wherein each said clearance portion comprises a width providing a clearance for said forward tab.

12. (Once amended) A slide-out shelf assembly comprising:

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a shelf comprising a first side, a forward tab laterally extending a first distance from said first side, and a rear tab laterally extending a second distance from said first side, said second distance less than said first distance; and

a first shelf side support comprising a laterally projecting ledge for sliding engagement with said shelf first side, said projecting ledge comprising:

a rear portion having a first width sufficient to retain said rear tab; and

a forward portion having a second width less than said first width and providing a clearance for said rear tab and further providing a clearance for said forward tab, said clearance having a third width providing a clearance for said forward tab.

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14. (Once amended) A shelf assembly in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said forward and rear tab extend laterally outward from said shelf first side, and said first side support ledge extends laterally inward over said forward and rear tab when said shelf is in a retracted position.

Remarks

The Office Action mailed January 29, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof. Submitted herewith is a Submission of Marked Up Paragraphs and Claims and a Request for Approval of Drawing Changes.

Claims 1-21 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-21 stand rejected.

The objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5) is respectfully traversed. More specifically, Figure 6 has been amended to remove the reference label "104". Applicants respectfully request approval of the indicated drawing change. In anticipation of approval of the drawing change, Applicants have submitted substitute drawings incorporating the above-noted changes. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5) objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The objection to Claims 3, 7, 12, and 14 is respectfully traversed. The Claims have been amended to correct the informalities noted in the Office Action. Specifically, Claim 3 was amended to recite "a forward stop tab and a rear tab, whereby said tabs", Claim 7 was amended to recite "each said clearance portion comprises a width", Claim 12 was amended to recite "having a third", and Claim 14 was amended to recite "said shelf first side, and said first side support". For the reasons set forth above, Applicants request that the objection to Claims 3, 7, 12, and 14 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that Applicants have not elected to be their own lexicographer in this instance, and that the use of the term "gusset" in Applicants' specification and Claims is entirely consistent with its ordinary meaning, as it would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was filed.